

Wabash Reflections

March 2004

A newsletter brought to you by the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (WRHCC). The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, representing the Wabash River Heritage Corridor, shall protect and enhance the natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources and encourage sustainable development of the corridor.

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The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Management Plan is FINISHED!

The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission has proudly announced the completion of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Management Plan (CMP). The plan is intended to serve as a guide to Heritage Corridor Communities and the Commission for achieving a shared vision of the corridor. This plan identifies significant Corridor resources, strategies for conservation and enhancement, and resources and tools that can be used at by local government and organizations as they work together to preserve their cultural and natural heritage while enhancing the recreational and economic opportunities, and improving the quality of life for their communities. With the assistance and input from citizens during public meetings held throughout the Corridor, a final document is now available for everyone to use. " This is a great planning tool and we owe a great deal of thanks to the many Indiana citizens who contributed to it, " says Lucky Neiburger, President of the Commission.

The Commission with the assistance of the National Park Service Rivers and Trails program and various state agencies solicited input from communities and residents throughout the corridor, through public process, which served as the cornerstone of this plan. Residents, community groups, elected officials at all levels, park officials, regional convention and visitor bureaus, and representatives from state and regional organizations within the Corridor participated in this process.

The first round of meetings focused on the identification of "values", significant resources, the linkages, and defining the corridor. A second round of meetings identified approaches, strategies, the benefits, and best management practices for resources protection and enhancement. The third round of meetings further identified actions that can be taken, and the resources available to assist with these actions. Following the public meetings a draft of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Management Plan was

prepared by the management plan working group and presented for public review and revision before the final plan was released.

The Commission encourage those interested to access the completed CMP and Resource Directory via the internet at the Commission's website at <http://www.in.gov/wrhcc>. Should you need a hard copy of the CMP or the Resource Directory please contact Susan Benner at:

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Wabash Canoe Trip Remembered Submitted by John Gettinger

I live in Merom, Indiana 30 miles south of Terre Haute and 30 miles north of Vincennes. My home was situated on the Buff of Merom so the river was in my back yard but 200 feet down. From Merom Bluff you can see Robinson, Illinois 7 miles away. Merom is the home to the Merom Conference Center, which is the Indiana Kentucky Conference Church Camp.

We had organized a canoe trip to go to New Harmony, Indiana on the Wabash River. We gathered at Merom on Sunday and left before noon on Monday. We reached the first night stop at Shaker Prairie, the site of a Shaker Community in the early 1800's. This was high ground. We left there as fast as we could feed 30 kids and broke camp. We came upon a man fishing at the site where Maria Creek enters the Wabash. I asked him "How far is Vincennes?" He said around the corner. We let the kids go, and an hour and a half later I reached Kimmel Park along the river in Vincennes. That man knew nothing about the river. First thing the next morning we went by the George Rogers Clark National Memorial, which was really something to see from the river. We spend the next night on a large sandbar and the kids had a lot of fun in the sand and swimming. The next day we went past the points where the White River and the Patoka River join and then the Wabash got big. The size of the river may have intimidated the kids because all the canoes stayed close for a while. We worked like dogs and wanted to get to Grayville, Illinois before nightfall but gave up and camped again on a sandbar. The next day we were at Grayville before the stores opened, our guys wanted to buy candy and pop. In 1983 when we took this trip Grayville was on the river but the river has cut a new channel and Grayville is at the end of an oxbow. We were in New Harmony before noon and enjoyed the many nice things there. I enjoyed this trip so much and did it 2 more times.

The Wabash River is a priceless property that belongs to the people of Indiana. It is my privilege to serve on the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Bridge Festival "Queen" Resigns As Reported by Patricia L. Pastore Tribune-Star, Rockville

Anne Lynk, often called queen of the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, has resigned after serving as the event's coordinator for more than a decade. In announcing her resignation, Lynk said she wants to spend more time with her family after more than 13 years as festival coordinator and hostess. She has served as both executive director of the Parke County Convention and Visitors Bureau and executive secretary of Parke County Inc., the organization that host the Covered Bridge Festival. The 10-day event draws about 2 million visitors each October.

The Covered Bridge Festival probably doubled under Lynk's guidance and help of her 17 member board of directors, said Betty Hazlett, who has spent more than 37 years canning vegetables, pickles and jams and jellies to sell inside the big tent on the courthouse lawn in Rockville. Hazlett indicated that Lynk had the ability to use Parke County's assets – covered bridges, quaint hamlets and winding rutted dirt roads – to sell the natural and peaceful beauty of rural Americana to city folks tired of the cement and asphalt jungle.

Lynk, a Parke County native and 1961 graduate of Rockville High School, left the area during her college years but coming home "was always on my mind." "My grandparents and my parents are natives of southern Parke County. I love this county," she said.

Lynk's job with Parke County, Inc. has extended beyond simply promoting the Covered Bridge Festival. Parke County, Inc.'s goals include promoting the county, bringing economic benefits to the area and preserving historic structures.

Lynk also is proud of the covered bridge Web site and helping to promote the Innkeeper's tax, which provides money to promote Parke County. The Web site helps with motor coach tours since Parke County, Inc. is now able to answer thousand of inquires by e-mail.

Anne Lynk also serves as the alternate Parke County representative for the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission.

Covington Circle Trail

Submitted by Covington Community Foundation

Governor Joe Kernan announced December 19, 2003 the awarding of a \$950,000 Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant for the Covington Circle Trail. Federal TE grants are for community projects that are transportation related. The grant awards are given in three categories: historic, commerce and bicycle/pedestrian. Accepting the award were Representative F. Dale Grubb, Commissioner David Ziegler, Covington Community Foundation (CCF) Executive Director Erwin Johannes and Mayor Brad Crain. The Covington Community Foundation submitted the grant proposal to the Indiana Department of Transportation in January 2003. The grant will fund the development of five miles of multi-use pathway for walkers, bicyclist and other non-motorized recreational activities. The total Circle Trail will exceed six miles. The grant is for Phase I. The Circle Trail will begin at the Covington City Park, pass through Trojan Complex, continue on Trojan Complex Road, turn south and meander through the woods to 13th Street, continue south to Friendship Circle Center, follow the street in the Hutsler addition, then south to the USDA Service Center. The Indiana historic bridge #63, a 1910 Pratt iron pony truss, located on the Rockfield Road is to be replaced in 2004. The multi span bridge will provide for two trail crossings over Mallory Branch Creek. The salvaged bridge is to be rehabilitated. Interpretive signs will highlight the history of the bridge.

The first grant awarded by the Covington Community Foundation was for a footbridge crossing Mallory Branch Creek. The bridge built in 1994, connected the Covington City Park and Trojan Complex. This community project enabled Chad Parker, the bridge builder, to become an Eagle Scout. The bridge demonstrated the merits of connecting the two recreational areas.

In 1998 a paved walking trail, 0.4 miles, was constructed in the Covington City Park. The public used the trail and requests were received for an extension. An addition to the walking trail was completed in 1999. The total length of the walking trail is 0.73 miles. Many Covington residents are enjoying the walking trail. Other recreational activities on the trail became a hazard for the walkers.

The experience of the footbridge connecting the City Park to Trojan Complex and the desire of a longer trail which would accommodate multi-use recreational activities lead to the vision of the Covington Circle Trail.

The development of Circle Trail will begin in 2004 with planning activities which includes project development, environmental studies, engineering and land acquisition. When completed in 2005, the twelve-foot wide multi-use pathway will provide numerous opportunities for safe recreational activities. For more information about the Covington Circle Trail contact the Covington Community Foundation office at (765) 793-0702.

Little Turtle Waterway Trail Enhancements Submitted by Mercedes Brugh

Little Turtle Waterway Trail (LTW) will gain benches, lights, more native trees, and stairway access from the Third Street Bridge. Work will begin this spring, funded by a grant from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund with a match from the Lilly Endowment.

The Trail connects the confluence of the Wabash and Eel Rivers to the LTW Plaza—together representing \$1.7 million investment in downtown Logansport. The Plaza has become a community gathering place, accommodating events such as an open-air circus and a Christmas season display of lighted floats. Teachers also use LTW as a field trip destination, as students can make rubbings of granite pavers depicting scenes from Cass County history and see "footprints" of Cass County ice-age animals on the trail.

LTW recently won the "Best New Park" award from the Project for Public Spaces. LTW is now a permanent feature on the Project for Public Spaces web site, <http://pps.org/>. LTW's page is at http://pps.org//gps/one?public_place_id=604.

Volunteers worked on LTW's riverbank on twelve Saturday mornings in 2003, and are looking forward to concentrating on the confluence of the Wabash and Eel Rivers in 2004.